

SUMMARY OF NO. 13-20

This proposed law would prohibit the Director of the state Division of Marine Fisheries from authorizing or licensing the commercial use of fishing gear that is known to cause the entanglement of any whale or sea turtle. The state Secretary of Environmental Affairs would be required to make an annual scientific determination whether any kind of fishing gear licensed by the Director would cause the entanglement of any whale or sea turtle. The Director could only license fishing gear determined not to cause such entanglements.

The proposed law would prohibit the Director from permitting the use of any type of gill net or other fishing gear that suspends a curtain of mesh material in the ocean to capture fish without being actively towed.